

Appn. No.: 10/635,352
Amendment Dated September 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2006

RAIL-107US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 10-12, 16, 17, 19-26 and 29-34 are pending. In the Office Action dated June 27, 2006, claims 1, 11, 16 and 29-34 were objected to based on alleged informalities. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,920 ("Davis"). Claims 11, 12, 17 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of Davis.

The Office Action indicated that claims 1, 16, 25, 26 and 29-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has elected to amend the claims as set forth below to place the application in form for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 11 has been amended to address the informalities noted in the Office Action. The revisions are directed to form, not patentability, and therefore do not surrender any subject matter.

The Office Action has advised Applicant to rewrite claim 16 into independent form. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has carried out this amendment. This amendment is also related to form, not patentability, and therefore does not surrender any subject matter.

Claims 1 and 29-34 are dependent on amended claim 16, and were presumably objected to because of the objection to claim 16. Because claim 16 has now been amended, Applicant believes the objections to claims 1 and 29-34 are traversed.

Claim Rejections

Applicant has amended independent claim 11 to incorporate the allowed subject matter of claim 25. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 17 and 19-24 are dependent on amended claim 11 and incorporate all the features recited in claim 11. Therefore, claims 12, 17 and 19-24 are believed to be allowable over Davis for at least the same reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

Claim 25 has been cancelled because the allowed subject matter of claim 25 has been incorporated into claim 11. Claim 26 has been amended to change the dependency to claim 11, thereby incorporating all the features now recited in claim 11. Therefore, claim 26 is believed

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to be allowable over Davis for at least the same reasons that claim 11 is allowable. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claim 10 to incorporate the features recited in allowable claim 25, namely, first and second extensions each having an internal channel with one or more ratchet teeth in said channel, the ratchet teeth in the channels of the first extensions being adapted to lockingly engage the ratchet teeth in the channels of the second extensions of the adjoining pieces. No new matter has been added. None of the cited references teach or suggest a frame apparatus having first and second extensions with ratchet teeth as recited in amended claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 is believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

The objections to all claims are believed to be traversed. Moreover, claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form, as noted above, and therefore is believed to be allowable. Claims 1, 26 and 29-34 are no longer dependent on a rejected base claim, and are therefore believed to be allowable as well.

Conclusion

Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner's suggestions set forth in the Office Action and has followed them to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



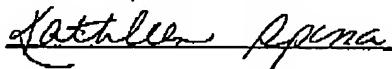
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Dated: September 27, 2006

The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted VIA FAXSIMILE to 571-273-8300 Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: September 27, 2006



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